REMARKS

Claim 44 has been amended to clarify the language thereof, as noted by the Examiner in connection with the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The typographical error that resulted in this rejection is regretted.

Claim 44 continues to define the invention as a method of manufacturing a driveshaft that is balanced for rotation about an axis wherein a rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight are moved toward one another such that (1) a first portion of the adhesive material is disposed between the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight at a location for balancing the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft for rotation about an axis and (2) a second portion of the adhesive material is not disposed between the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight. The second portion of the adhesive material is initially cured to temporarily retain the balance weight on the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft. Subsequently, the first portion of the adhesive material is cured to permanently retain the balance weight on the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft.

The Examiner stated that the above language of Claim 44 "reads on excess adhesive that is squeezed out from between the driveshaft and balance weight when they are pressed together." The Examiner further stated that "[i]t is well known and recognized in the bonding art when bonding two articles together with adhesive to allow adhesive to protrude or extrude from the peripheral surface portions of the article and that these portions of the adhesive tend to dry first." Lastly, the Examiner stated that "[i]t is also well recognized that the dry protruded or extruded portions of adhesive temporarily hold the articles together prior to the curing or drying of the other portions of adhesive." These conclusions are wholly unsupported in the prior art of record and, therefore, are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner provides no factual basis whatsoever in any of the prior art of record in support of these various conclusions. On the contrary, the Examiner appears to be making purely speculative assumptions about the state of the art. However, there is simply no teaching contained in any of the prior art of record that shows or suggests that a rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and a balance weight can or should be moved

toward one another such that (1) a first portion of an adhesive material is disposed between the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight at a location for balancing the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft for rotation about an axis, and (2) a second portion of the adhesive material is not disposed between the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight, as specifically claimed. Absent any such teaching in the prior art, the allegations made by the Examiner cannot support a *prima facie* case of obviousness as required.

Furthermore, even if the above step of Claim 44 is obvious in light of the art of record, there is still no teaching contained in the art of record about the subsequent specifically defined steps of Claim 44, wherein (1) the second portion of the adhesive material (i.e., the portion of the adhesive material that is not disposed between the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight) is initially cured to temporarily retain the balance weight on the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft, and (2) the first portion of the adhesive material (i.e., the portion of the adhesive material that is disposed between the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight) is subsequently cured to permanently retain the balance weight on the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft. On the contrary, each of the cited references discloses that only a portion of the adhesive that is disposed between the first and second sheets of material are initially cured, not a portion of the adhesive material that is not disposed between the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight, as specifically claimed. Again, the Examiner relies upon purely speculative assumptions about the state of the art in support of the rejection. However, such speculative assumptions are not sufficient to support the rejections. Thus, the rejections should be withdrawn.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

44. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a driveshaft that is balanced for rotation about an axis comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a driveshaft that is unbalanced for rotation about an axis;

(b) providing a balance weight;

(c) providing an adhesive material between the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight;

(d) moving the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight toward one another such that a first portion of the adhesive material is disposed between the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight at a location for balancing the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft for rotation about an axis and a second portion of the adhesive material is not disposed [from] between the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight;

(e) initially curing the second portion of the adhesive material to temporarily retain the balance weight on the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft; and

(f) subsequently curing the first portion of the adhesive material to permanently retain the balance weight on the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft, thereby providing a driveshaft that is balanced for rotation about an axis.